

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims, in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (previously presented): The diagnostic system of claim 30, wherein the positioning device is driven to position the carriers for access by the diagnostic module.

Claim 27 (original): The diagnostic system of claim 26, wherein the positioning device comprises a rotating carousel.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The diagnostic system of claim 30, further comprising the diagnostic module, which is configured for performing the diagnostic process by accessing and combining the

substances from one of the containers and also another substance to perform the diagnostic process.

Claim 29 (original): The diagnostic system of claim 28, wherein the substance in the container comprises a reagent, and the other substance comprises a sample.

Claim 30 (previously presented): An assay testing diagnostic analyzer system, comprising:

- a loading bay for loading a plurality of carriers that are configured for holding containers that contain fluid substances for use in a diagnostic process;

- a positioning device configured for receiving and positioning the carriers for access by a diagnostic module to perform the diagnostic process;

- a transporter configured for transporting the carriers from the loading bay to the positioning device;

- a retention member associated with the positioning device and configured for locking the carriers to the positioning device, the retention member being operatively associated with the transporter for releasing the carriers therefrom to enable the transporter to transport the carrier from the positioning device, further comprising an activation member operably associated with the transporter for releasing at least one of the carriers when the transporter is in contact with the activation member.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The diagnostic system of claim 30, further comprising a carrier locking member configured for moving with respect to the positioning device in association with the carrier for locking and unlocking the carrier with respect to the positioning device, the activation member being configured for being displaced by the transporter to move the locking member for the locking and unlocking of the carrier.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The diagnostic system of claim 30, wherein the retention member comprises first latching member configured for lockingly latching to a second latching member of at least one

of the carriers for locking the carrier to the positioning device, the retention member being configured for relatively moving the latching members for locking and unlocking the carrier.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The diagnostic system of claim 32, further comprising a locking member movable with respect to the positioning device and associated with the carrier for moving the second latching member with respect to the first latching member for locking and unlocking the carrier.

Claim 34 (original): The diagnostic system of claim 33, further comprising an activation member operatively associated with the transporter for releasing the carrier when the transporter is in contact with the activation member, the locking member comprising a tab that is received in a recess of the carrier and which is configured for sliding the carrier with respect to the latching member.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The diagnostic system of claim 30, further comprising:

- the plurality of carriers;
- a plurality of the retention members;
- a carrier sensor configured for detecting the presence of the carriers on the positioning device.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The diagnostic system of claim 35, wherein the carriers have an identifying feature, the diagnostic system further comprising:

- an identification device configured for identifying the identifying feature of the carriers; and
- a programmable computer for controlling the movement of the transporter and the positioning device based on input data and a preprogrammed priority order for processing the contents of the carriers based on the identified identifying feature.

Cancel claims 2-13.